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## New Indiana EMT Certification Process Has Begun

As of July 1, 2017 the Emergency Medical Services Commission has eliminated the Indiana emergency medical technician (EMT) state written exam. All new EMTs are now required to take the National Registry EMT written exam.

Anyone currently in a course or anyone that has completed an Indiana EMT course within the last year but has either not yet tested, or taken but failed the Indiana written exam will now be required to take the National Registry EMT written exam. This change will affect anyone attempting to regain their certification based on a previous certification.

Once an EMT student obtains their National Registry certification the individual will need to complete a reciprocity application and turn it in along with their National Registry card to the State EMS

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## Local Firefighters Partner with IDHS to Teach Fire Investigator Class



The firefighters of Clarksville and Jeffersonville worked with State Fire Marshal/Indiana Department of Homeland Security fire investigators to teach a basic fire investigator class in the town of Clarksville in Clark County. This 30 hour class was completed in 4 days over a 2 week span.

By the end of the class, 14 firefighters from Clarksville and one from Jeffersonville learned skills needed to become a fire investigator, including how to investigate a fire, how to determine the origin and cause of fires and explosions and how to look at evidence. The firefighters participated in multiple scene examinations of live fires in local fire towers and burn rooms.



## State, Local Agencies Team Up in Arson Arrests

Several local agencies from across the state have worked with State Fire Marshal investigators with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to serve justice this summer.

In the span of two weeks, state and local agencies have come together to arrest four separate suspects on felony arson charges in connection to multiple open cases involving Indiana structure fires.

In the early morning of June 6, New Castle Fire Department responded to multiple structure fires occurring only minutes apart in New Castle, Ind. The New Castle Police Department and State Fire Marshal investigators worked the case together. One week later, Joshua Dunham was arrested on three counts of felony arson after admitting to detectives that he deliberately set the fires.

On June 20, the Auburn Fire Department responded to a structure fire at the Penguin Point restaurant in Auburn, Ind. After a thorough investigation including a State Fire Marshal investigator, the Auburn Police Department and Indiana State Police, the fire was determined to be incendiary. The following day, Jessica Sweitzer was arrested on charges of felony arson and burglary in connection to the fire.

Donald Fuesler was arrested June 22 on felony arson charges after he confessed to setting the June 20 Miller Raceway Park fire in Montgomery, Ind. Agencies working together on this case include a State Fire Marshal investigator, Montgomery Fire Department and Daviess County Sheriff's Office.

An arrest warrant was served on Tab Burcham on June 27 by the

Vincennes Police Department. Burcham faces charges including felony arson and intent to defraud in connection to the December 13 structure fire at Burcham Motorsports in Vincennes, Ind. The Vincennes Fire Department responded to the call and a State Fire Marshal investigator was also called to assist in the investigation.

Even with the dedicated efforts from state and local officials resulting in numerous recent arrests, incendiary fires remain open around the state. Agencies around the state can assist in gathering information by promoting the Indiana Arson Hotline at 800-382-4628.

## EMT Certification Process Cont.

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Certification and Training office in order to complete their Indiana certification.

It is important to note that in order to work as an EMT in the State of Indiana you must hold an Indiana state certification. You cannot work in Indiana as an EMT solely on a National Registry card.

This change does not affect anyone that currently holds an active Indiana State EMT certification. Anyone that is attempting to become a Primary Instructor that has not taken or passed the Indiana state written exam will now be required to take the National Registry EMT written exam.

For questions or clarification regarding the new certification process, contact the EMS Certification and Training Office with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security at [emscertifications@dhs.in.gov](mailto:emscertifications@dhs.in.gov). For more information on the National Registry of EMTs or to take the exam, visit [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org).



## New IDHS District 10 Coordinator

A new district coordinator has joined the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) to assist and support Indiana emergency managers. Tonda Dixon joined the agency on June 19, 2017 as the District 10 coordinator.

Dixon started her career in emergency management at the Pike County Emergency Management Agency, where she worked for 19 years. She originally began as an administrative assistant and later served as the director.

Dixon's new district includes Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

## IDHS Representative Talks School Safety in D.C.



Indiana Department of Homeland Security representative Robert Quinn spoke on school safety at the Security Industry Association's (SIA) annual public policy conference, SIA GovSummit in Washington, D.C., on June 28, 2017. The summit examined emerging policy trends, technology needs of the government and changes in the country's risk environment.

## Kinder Promoted to Chief Fire Investigator

Clayton Kinder was recently promoted to Chief of the Fire Investigations section of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Kinder has been involved in the fire service for 18 years and has served as a fire investigator with IDHS for the past nine years, spending most of his time investigating in the southeast portion of the state.

Kinder graduated from Eastern Kentucky University where he focused on arson and explosion investigations. His career began in fire services as a volunteer firefighter with the New Chapel Fire Department, where he worked during college. He later moved on to the New Washington Fire Department in Clark County before joining IDHS.

### Requesting an Investigator

It is important to know how to properly request a fire investigator, should one ever be needed. Personnel from a fire department, police department or an insurance company can call 317-232-6435 between the hours of 8 am to 4:30 pm to speak to someone and go through the process. After hours, Emergency Operations Center personnel are available to assist, and can be reached at 800-669-7362.

Information to have available includes:

- The location of the incident
- Type of structure
- Person making the request, and their agency
- The requesting agency's dispatch number
- Contact person and information (if different)
- Number of injuries and fatalities
- Business name (if the structure is a business)

Additionally, the IDHS Office of Public Affairs is always willing to assist with media requests on fires IDHS investigators are assisting on. It is helpful if requesting agencies consider who will be the lead agency for media inquiries – the jurisdictional fire department, local police (if applicable) or IDHS Public Affairs.

# Building Construction and Fire Behavior Symposium

Washington Township and Avon Fire Department will be hosting a free Building Construction and Fire Behavior Symposium on August 11-12, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a total of 3 classes taught at the Avon Middle School North.

On Friday, August 11 starting at 9 a.m. presenter James Johnson, firefighter from Vancouver Fire and Rescue will be teaching the following two classes:

**“What’s Hiding Behind the Walls?”** With today’s current building materials it is more difficult to recognize the components in structures that firefighters may be responding to. This class will help attendees

recognize these new materials and new ways to respond.

**“Tilt-Up Construction: Fortress or House of Cards?”**

This class will discuss building methods that are occurring around North America. Johnson will also show how buildings are constructed, give a closer look at the materials and how to identify a tilt-up. At the end, there will be a discussion over case studies and the concerns of fire personnel who respond to fires.

On Saturday, August 12 presenter Chief Pete VanDorpe, (Ret.) Chicago Fire Department & Chief of the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District will teach the following class:

**“Fire Behavior & the Intelligent Interior Fire Attack”**

This class will help further understanding over fire behavior, fire ground strategy and tactics. This class will help present challenges and solutions for even the most experienced firefighter.

Don’t forget to register for the event now at:

[washingtonwpbuildingconstructionsymposium.eventbrite.com](http://washingtonwpbuildingconstructionsymposium.eventbrite.com). This event is free to fire personnel.

Any questions can be directed to Chief John Shafer at : [jshafer@avonfd.org](mailto:jshafer@avonfd.org)

## School Safety Instructors Learn Trauma Management

School safety administrators, school resource officers and a school nurse gathered from around the state on May 15 to attend a bleeding control class taught by the State Training Officer with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Elizabeth Westfall led the class “Stop the Bleed: Bleeding Control for the Injured,” which taught school safety officials what they can do in a trauma situation where bleeding cannot be easily controlled.

Participants learned and practiced how to apply a tourniquet and use wound packing materials. Westfall also

taught participants about some situations in a school setting where bleeding control techniques may be needed, as well as accessible locations to store the equipment.

Skills taught in the class can be applied to everyday life situations. While the need for such skills is often associated with mass casualty incidents, they are useful in the workplace, especially around machinery and can also be applied in the event of car accidents and other emergency situations. These classes offer a “holistic community approach to providing trauma care until EMS can arrive,” said Westfall.

Bleeding control classes are free and anyone may attend. Trained instructors from IDHS are available to travel around the state to provide education to local communities. “The class helps to provide situational awareness to the community,” said Westfall. “This is something you can do to help save a life when first responders aren’t immediately available.”

To schedule a class for an organization or business, contact the Training and Preparedness Division of Indiana Department of Homeland Security at [training@dhs.in.gov](mailto:training@dhs.in.gov).

# Plan Now for Future Outreach

With Independence Day behind us, it's time to look forward to late summer events. IDHS is encouraging emergency services and emergency management professionals to consider promoting upcoming safety and preparedness opportunities.

## School Bus Safety

Consider encouraging your communities to be safe as school buses return to the road in later parts of the summer. Remind area drivers to stop for buses in accordance with the law. Slowing down and driving carefully when the buses are present is another way to get local kids to school, and home, safely.

## Back to School

As students head to college campuses around the state, fire safety and personal preparedness is another topic to discuss.

Encourage families in your area to sit down and discuss the importance of fire evacuations and drills, as well as preparedness kits and communication plans. The Ready: Whenever. Wherever. program is another resource for encouraging college students to think about personal and campus safety while in school. Find more at [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

## Water Recreation Safety

There have been several water fatalities this summer, and with continued warm weather, water recreation will likely be a popular activity. Encourage citizens in your area to wear proper personal flotation devices, plan ahead to avoid low head dams and avoid water recreation while under the influence. For more information on low head dam safety, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

## Heat Safety

Even though we've seen some warm days this year, it's important that Hoosiers don't forget about warm weather safety. Consider encouraging safety, including sunblock use, hydration and limited alcohol consumption during hot summer days. For more heat safety tips, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).



## Did you know?

IDHS offers safety resources and information on various topics, such as:

- Severe weather preparedness
- Earthquake safety
- Fire safety
- Disaster response
- and much more.



Visit [GetPrepared.IN.gov](http://GetPrepared.IN.gov)  
for more information and fact sheets

## Mission

*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service, and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.*

## Contact

*The Hoosier Responder* is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Office of Public Affairs at (317) 234-6713 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).

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